

E. Aggregate Status of Tolerances Reassessed

During FY 2002, EPA completed 2,649 tolerance reassessments and ended the fiscal year with a total of 6,499 tolerance reassessment decisions to date, addressing almost 67% of the 9,721 tolerances that require reassessment (See Table 9). Over 60% of the tolerance reassessment decisions completed were for pesticides in priority Group 1.

Just as EPA reassessed over 33% of all food tolerances by August 3, 1999, including many tolerances for pesticides

identified as posing the greatest potential risks, the Agency also met the next FQPA goal during FY 2002 and completed over 66% of all required tolerance reassessment decisions by August 3, 2002. EPA's general schedule for tolerance reassessment (**Federal Register**, August 4, 1997) identified three groups of pesticides to be reviewed; this grouping continues to reflect the Agency's overall scheduling priorities. In completing tolerance reassessment, EPA continues to give priority to pesticides in Group 1.

1. *Aggregate accomplishments through reregistration and other*

programs. EPA is accomplishing tolerance reassessment through the registration and reregistration programs; by revoking tolerances for pesticides that have been canceled (many as a result of reregistration); by reevaluating pesticides with pre-FQPA REDs, and through other decisions not directly related to registration or reregistration, described further below. EPA is using the Tolerance Reassessment Tracking System (TORTS) to compile this updated information and report on the status of tolerance reassessment (See Table 9).

TABLE 9.—TOLERANCE REASSESSMENTS COMPLETED POST-FQPA BY FISCAL YEAR, THROUGH FY 2002

Tolerances Reassessed Through...	During Late FY 96	During FY 1997	During FY 1998	During FY 1999	During FY 2000	During FY 2001	During FY 2002	Total, End of FY 2002
Reregistration/REDs	25	339	278	359	44	46	231	1,322
Tolerance Reassessments/TREDs	--	--	--	--	--	--	776	776
Registration	0	221	308	341	55	215	200	1,340
Tolerance revocations	3	0	812	513	22	35	545	1,930
Other decisions	0	1	0	233	0	0	897	1,131
Total tolerances reassessed	28	561	1,398	1,446	121	296	2,649	6,499

i. *Reregistration/REDs.* EPA is using the reregistration program to accomplish much of tolerance reassessment. For each of the tolerance reassessment decisions made through REDs since FQPA, the Agency has made the finding as to whether there is a reasonable certainty of no harm, as required by FFDCA. Many tolerances reassessed through reregistration remain the same while others may be raised, lowered, or revoked.

ii. *Tolerance reassessments/TREDs.* Tolerances initially evaluated through REDs that were completed before FQPA was enacted in August 1996 now are being reassessed to ensure that they meet the new FFDCA safety standard. EPA issues these post-RED tolerance reassessment decisions as TREDs. The Agency also issues TREDs summarizing tolerance reassessment decisions for some developing REDs, for new pesticide active ingredients not subject to reregistration, and for pesticides with import tolerances only. Tolerance reassessments in TREDs for pesticides that are not part of a cumulative group (i.e., pesticides that are not OPs or carbamates) may be counted at present and are included in the FY 2002 accomplishments. In completing OP

IREDs and TREDs during FY 2002, the Agency also completed tolerance reassessment decisions for these pesticides. Many of these tolerance reassessments will not become final, however, until EPA completes a cumulative evaluation of the OPs.

iii. *Registration.* Like older pesticides, all new pesticide registrations must meet the safety standard of FFDCA. Many of the registration applications EPA receives are for new uses of pesticides already registered for other uses. To reach a decision on a proposed new food use of an already registered pesticide, EPA must reassess the existing tolerances, as well as the proposed new tolerances, to make sure there is reasonable certainty that no harm will result to the public from aggregate exposure from all uses. During FY 2002, the Agency has continued to discourage submission of applications and petitions for any new uses of the OP pesticides, given the need to consider cumulative risks from OP's as a group before any new uses can be fully evaluated.

iv. *Tolerance revocations.* Revoked tolerances represent uses of many different pesticide active ingredients that have been canceled in the past.

Some pesticides were canceled due to the Agency's risk concerns. Others were canceled voluntarily by their manufacturers, based on lack of support for reregistration. Tolerance revocations are important even if there are no domestic uses of a pesticide because residues in or on imported commodities treated with the chemical could still present dietary risks that may exceed the FFDCA "reasonable certainty of no harm" standard, either individually or cumulatively with other substances that share a common mechanism of toxicity.

v. *Other reassessment decisions.* In addition to the types of reassessment actions described above, a total of 1,131 additional tolerance reassessment decisions have been made, not directly related to registration or reregistration. A list of these other tolerance reassessment decisions with their **Federal Register** citations is available in the docket for this **Federal Register** notice.

2. *Accomplishments for priority pesticides.* During FY 2002, EPA completed tolerance reassessment decisions for many high priority pesticides in review, including OPs, carbamates, organochlorines, and carcinogens. (See Table 10.)